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BULLETIN 5

New England Party

A special party will be planned from Boston, leaving South Station July 1 at 10 a.m. (Framingham, 10:38; Worcester, 11:15; Springfield, 12:40 noon; Pittsfield, 2:30) arriving at Albany at 3:48 p.m. and at Saratoga at 6:05 p.m. in time for the opening session that evening.

Parlor car seats, Boston to Albany, \$1.10, including tax; and if enough apply, the parlor car can probably run through to Saratoga.

Register for the trip with Mr. F. W. Faxon, 83 Francis Street, Back Bay, Boston, stating whether or not parlor car seat is desired. Fare, Boston to Saratoga, one way, including tax, \$5.49.

Chicago Party

If a special train is not permitted us this year, we hope at least to run as a separate section, provided enough applications are received to warrant it. If not, Pullmans for our exclusive use will be available on a regular train.

Mr. John F. Phelan, of the Chicago Public Library, will be in charge of the Chicago party, and reservations should be made through him.

The journey from Chicago to Saratoga will take about twenty-two hours, and full details of the party movement will be announced later. Although there is no prospect of any summer excursion rate better than twice the one-way fare, we shall announce later possible circle tours on the return journey.

POST-CONFERENCE OMITTED

It is not deemed wise this year to schedule any post-conference trip, but the Travel committee would call attention to the proximity to Saratoga of Lake George, Lake Champlain, Plattsburgh, Ticonderoga, the Adirondack mountains and Lake Placid. From Albany it is but a short trip to the heart of the Catskill mountains, or to the beautiful Berkshire hills of Massachusetts.

TRAVEL COMMITTEE, F. W. FAXON, Chairman.

LIBRARY WAR SERVICE

The energy of the Association is centered on the Library War Service. Hundreds of librarians, from coast to coast, are engaged in some part of the large task of furnishing reading material to the soldiers and sailors of the United States. The work is being conducted under the general direction of Dr. Herbert Putnam, librarian of Congress, and headquarters are at the Library of Congress, where a staff of about twenty-five are devoting their entire time to the service.

War Library Bulletin, vol. 1, no. 4 (January, 1918) which was distributed to about 6,000 libraries, sets forth the status of the work, which is summarized on the cover page as follows:

1.—A fund of more than a million and a half dollars has been raised for the purchase of books, the erection of buildings and the administration of the service.

- 2.—More than half a million books have been donated by the public, sorted and labeled by the librarians and shipped to camps, forts, training stations and naval vessels.
- 3.—A hundred thousand books, mostly non-fiction, have been purchased for the camp libraries.
- 4.—Thirty-three library buildings have been erected, or are nearing completion, from the \$320,000 given by the Carnegie Corporation for this purpose; and a thirty-fourth at Great Lakes Naval Training Station made possible by an anonymous gift of \$10,000.
- 5.—Seventy-nine men, mostly trained and experienced librarians, have been placed in camps as librarians and assistants. In addition, there are many more employed in a subsidiary capacity.
- 6.—Hundreds of other librarians, both men and women, are giving some time every day to this work.

- 7.—Three or four hundred branch libraries have been established in Y. M. C. A. and Knights of Columbus buildings, the Y. W. C. A. hostess houses and the base hospital reading rooms.
- 8.—Many deposit stations have been opened in company barracks and mess halls.
- 9.—Hundreds of small military and naval camps, posts and vessels have been supplied with books through chaplains, Y. M. C. A. secretaries, and other agencies.
- 10.—Tons of magazines have been sorted and distributed to soldiers.
- 11.—Automobile trucks have been purchased for the service in all the main camps and daily deliveries of newspapers, magazines and books are made to branches and deposit stations.
- 12.—A dispatch office has been opened at one of the ports of embarkation, from which books are being shipped to France, and supplied to men for use while on board the transports.
- 13.—Thousands of special requests for books—mostly technical—have been filled by purchase and inter-library loan.
- 14.—An organization has now been perfected at headquarters to insure prompt

and adequate attention to needs as they arise.

15.—All of these things have been done with the minimum possible expenditures for administration, and the minimum possible formality in the actual service of the books.

Since this statement was printed the number of men in the camps has increased to nearly one hundred; several women have also been permitted by camp commanders to work in the camp libraries; a dispatch office has been opened at another port of embarkation (Newport News, in addition to Hoboken); the number of purchased books has trebled; many new points of service have been established; and a national campaign is now in progress for the collection of two million gift books.

It is unnecessary here to rehearse the work of the Library War Service in detail as the facts are furnished in the War Library Bulletin, which is distributed to over 6,000 libraries of the United States and Canada. Any library not receiving copies may obtain them by writing the A. L. A. War Service, Library of Congress, Washington.

MID-WINTER MEETINGS OMITTED

The usual mid-winter library meetings, which have been held for the past ten years in Chicago, were omitted this year on account of the war. The Executive Board met at Washington on January 2, and the minutes of that meeting are printed in this number of the *Bulletin*. The Publishing Board, with two members present and

the other two voting by proxy, also met on the same day in Washington, but limited the business transacted to the reception of the Treasurer's report and the adoption of the budget for the year 1918. The Council will hold business sessions at the Saratoga Springs Conference.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Washington, D. C., January 2, 1918

A meeting of the Executive Board of the American Library Association was held on Wednesday, January 2, 1918, in the Library of Congress, Washington, sessions being held morning and afternoon.

Present: President Montgomery, Sec-